

## Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, UN

SUBJ: THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF ORGANIZATION  
OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU)

1. OAU OBSERVER OUATTARA (MALI) BRIEFED PRESS APRIL 8  
AT UN, CONCERNING PROJECTED CELEBRATIONS FOR 13TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF OAU, MAY 20. OUATTARA MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE CELEBRATION IN NEW YORK WILL  
BE AN ELABORATE CONCERT GALA SALUTE TO THE OAU, A BENEFIT  
SCHEDULED FOR MAY 20, IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL - TO BE  
ATTENDED BY DIPLOMATS AND SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL, AS WELL AS  
SPECIAL GUESTS FROM NEW YORK AND SURROUNDING STATES. THE  
PROGRAM IS CONCEIVED AS A CONTRIBUTION OF BLACK AMERICA  
TO THE STRENGTHENING OF TIES BETWEEN INDEPENDENT AFRICA AND  
THE USA AND HAS "NO POLITICAL, ONLY CULTURAL" CONNOTATION.  
IT IS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GOALS OF THE UN TO FOSTER  
GREATER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLES WITH A VIEW TOWARD  
SECURING PEACE IN THE WORLD, OUATTARA SAID. "THESE  
AIMS ARE INDEED CONSONANT WITH THE EFFORTS THE OAU HAS BEEN  
MAKING IN THIS REGARD EVER SINCE INCEPTION."

3. ACCORDING TO OUATTARA, PLANS FOR THE CONCERT ARE  
PROGRESSING RAPIDLY WITH FORMATION OF A SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
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OF BLACK INSTRUMENTALISTS WITH CORE OF ENSEMBLE MADE UP

OF MUSICIANS FROM THE NY METROPOLITAN AREA, AUGMENTED BY INSTRUMENTALISTS FROM PREDOMINANTLY BLACK NATIONS OF THE AMERICAS. CHORUS TO BE COMPOSED OF SINGERS FROM MORE-HOUSE COLLEGE AND SPELMAN COLLEGE. HIGHLIGHT OF THE PROGRAM WILL BE PREMIERES OF SELECTED CHORAL/SYMPHONIC BAROQUE AND PRECLASSICAL MASTERWORKS BY 18TH CENTURY BLACK ECCLESIASTICAL COMPOSERS OF THE BRAZILIAN PROVINCE OF MINAS GERAIS.

4. OUATTARA INTRODUCED DR. ROBERT S. PRITCHARD, BLACK AMERICAN CONCERT PIANIST AND "AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, ECONOMIC EXCHANGE SPECIALIST", WHO IS PUTTING THE GALA CONCERT TOGETHER.

5. CONCERT WILL BE BENEFIT ON BEHALF OF AFRICAN REFUGEE FUND AND FOR RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO DROUGHT AND FAMINE STRICKEN POPULATIONS OF AFRICA. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE BEING MADE ON VOLUNTARY BASIS.  
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